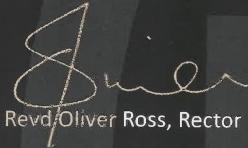


WELCOME

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The Revd Oliver Ross, Rector

A SHORT HISTORY

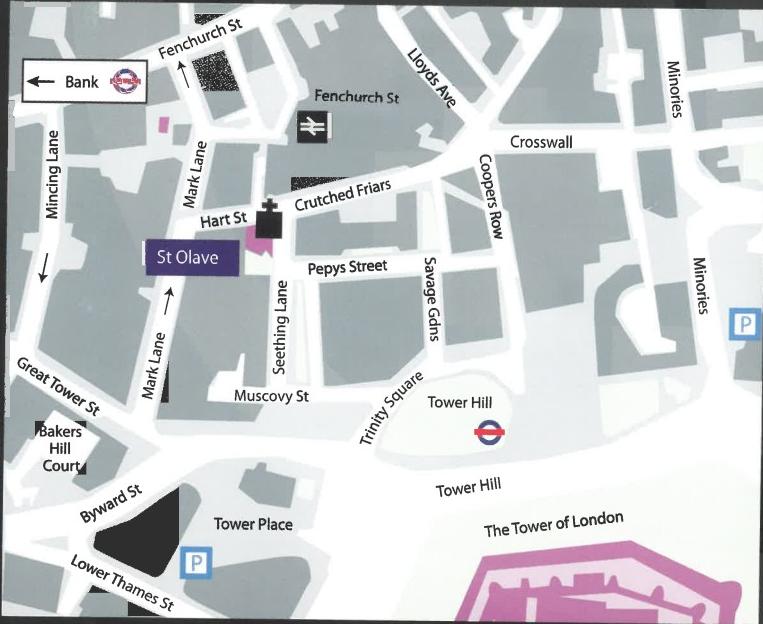
Olav, patron saint of Norway, is credited with saving London from the Danes in 1013. The original church on this site was, we believe, built in wood some time in the 11th century and was replaced by a stone structure in the late 12th or early 13th centuries. The church today is essentially the third one, built in about 1450 and lovingly restored in the 1950s, using much original masonry recovered after bombing in World War Two. In the reconstruction, the church received all new glass and woodwork, with the exception of the heraldic window in the north wall, which dates from the 19th century.

Of all St Olave's parishioners, the most famous is Samuel Pepys (1633-1703).



Samuel Pepys

His diary, written between 1660 and 1669, is regarded as an unparalleled record of 17th-century life. Pepys is buried with his wife and one of his brothers at the east end of the church.



CONTACT

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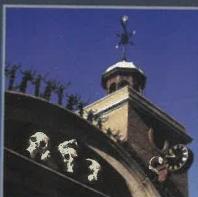
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VISITORS' GUIDE



St Olave Hart Street

SANCTUARY IN THE CITY

SIGHTS

1. Environmental Cleaners' Window The newest window in the church, installed in 2009. A gift from the executors of Doreen Heyes, late Almoner of The Worshipful Company.

2. Sir Andrew Riccard Mentioned frequently in Pepys's Diary, Sir Andrew was described as '*one of the ablest merchants*'. He is rendered life-size and in the robes of a Roman senator.

3. Lady Chapel Window The main panels represent the three historic parishes united in the present one. Left: Queen Elizabeth I, for All Hallows Staining. Centre: St Mary the Virgin, for St Olave's. Right: St Katharine of Alexandria for St Catherine Coleman. The lights above depict four illustrious 19th-century Christian reformers. Designed by A.E. Buss.

4. Peter Capponi A member of a powerful Florentine merchant family, he fled to London to escape political turmoil. Capponi died in 1582, a victim of plague.



Peter Capponi



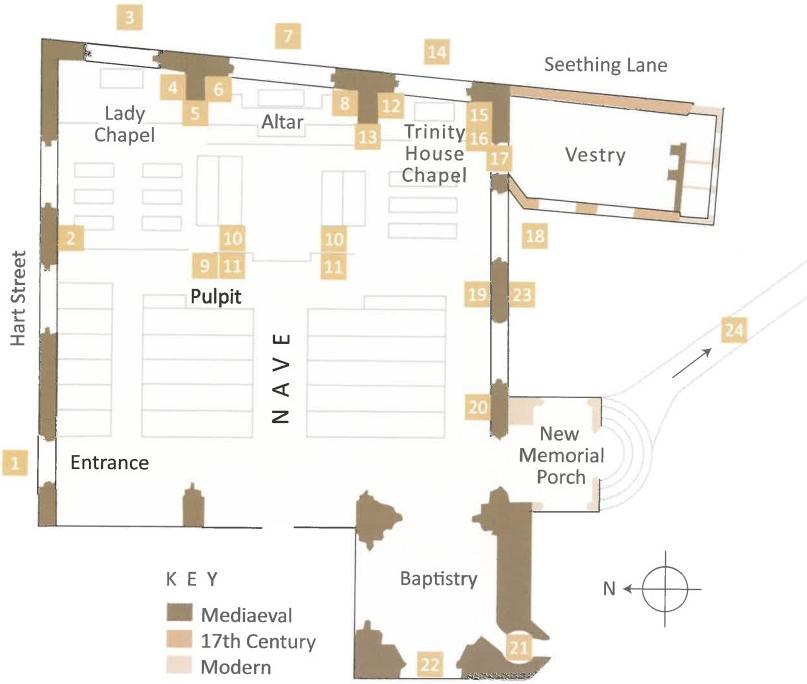
Bayning Memorial



Elizabeth Pepys



Pulpit (detail)



12. Oldest Monument in the Church On the floor in Trinity House Chapel, a marble slab with inlaid brass commemorates Sir Richard Haddon, Lord Mayor in 1506 and 1512. The monument is upside-down as it now faces the wall.

13. Sir John Mennes Memorial Often mentioned in Pepys's Diary, Sir John was Comptroller of the Navy and Master of Trinity House.

14. Trinity House Chapel St Olave's is the parish church of Trinity House (est. 1514), which is responsible for coastal safety in England and Wales and the licensing of deep-sea pilots. The window honours the fallen in both World Wars. St Clement (centre panel) is the patron saint of Trinity House.

15. Turner Memorial To the right of the Trinity House Chapel Window, this plaque commemoates William Turner (d.1568) Dean of Wells Cathedral and author of *The Herball*, the first guide to plants and their uses written in English.

16. James Deane Memorial Sir James (d.1608) was a merchant adventurer who amassed a large fortune

5. Bayning Monument Andrew (left, d.1610) and Paul Bayning (right, d.1616) are both dressed in the robes of aldermen. Paul also held the office of Sheriff of London. The brothers were benefactors of the poor.

6. Elizabeth Pepys The wife of Samuel Pepys, Elizabeth died in 1669. Her gaze is directed towards the site of the Navy Office Pew, where her husband would have sat. The work is by John Bushnell (d.1701) with the subject rendered in the lively portrait style of the Italian Baroque.

7. East Window The two central lights represent Christ as Saviour and Christ as Victor. The left panel is of St Olave with King Haakon VII's arms beneath. St George is represented in the right panel, over the arms of Queen Elizabeth II. The two figures are linked symbolically by the waves of the sea. The Christ Symbol and symbols of the four Gospel writers are depicted in the lights above. Designed by A.E.Buss.

8. Radcliffe Memorial The figure above is Sir John Radcliffe (1539-68) the son of the first Earl of Sussex. His wife, Dame Anne, occupies the niche below.

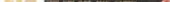
9. Pulpit Acquired in 1867 from St Bene't Gracechurch Street, and reputedly by Grinling Gibbons (1648-1721), whose work is found in St Paul's Cathedral, Windsor Castle and Hampton Court Palace.

10. Sword Stands (left & right) Now standing on the Restoration Stones, they were gifted to parishioners elected as Lord Mayor and placed on their pews. All four date from the 18th century.

11. Restoration Stones These were incorporated in the new Chancel Wall in the 1950s. Left: *The Stone of History*, laid by the Bishop of London, records the dates of successive churches on the site. Next to it is a piece of masonry from St Paul's Cathedral. Right: *Restoration Stone*, laid by King Haakon VII of Norway, next to which is a fragment of soapstone from above St Olave's tomb in Trondheim.



Sword Stand



James Deane Memorial



Pepys Memorial



Ghastly Grim Gate

in India and China, and gave generously to the poor. His three wives and three short-lived children are represented in the monument.

17. Vestry Door Thought to be older than the present church building and to be part of the first stone church on this site (13th century). The Vestry itself, a fine 17th-century room, can be viewed by appointment.

18. Clothworkers' Window Dedicated to the church's principal benefactor, The Worshipful Company of Clothworkers, this window was modified in 2000. St Thomas is patron saint of The Worshipful Company of Clothworkers.

19. Pepys Memorial A Victorian monument to the diarist, unveiled in 1883, and on the site of the entrance to the former Navy Office Pew, which was above ground level (also see 23).

20. Powell Miller Memorial As Rector of the church in the 1950s, The Revd Augustus Powell Miller oversaw the rebuilding of St Olave's after the extensive damage of World War Two.

21. St Olave The Baptistry holds a ceramic statue of the saint, sculpted by a Norwegian, Carl Schou.

22. Stairs to Crypt The Crypt Chapel, accessed by these stairs, is a remnant of the 13th-century church and may be viewed by appointment.

Exterior

23. Pepys Entrance Plaque This marks the entrance to the former Navy Office Pew, which was accessed by an external staircase running parallel to the wall.

24. Ghastly Grim Gate (1658) In *The Uncommercial Traveller* (1860) Charles Dickens referred to 'the churchyard of St Ghastly Grim', thus giving rise to the longstanding nickname of this gate. The skulls are a *memento mori*, a reminder of death. The Latin inscription is from Philippians 1:21, and translates as: '*To me, to live is Christ, to die is gain.*'

St Olave Hart Street

"A country church in the world of Seething Lane."

John Betjeman

St Olave Hart Street SANCTUARY IN THE CITY



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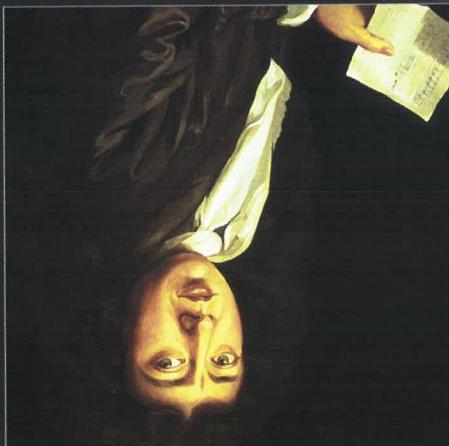
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